CURSE OF THE SPAWN

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14
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Todd McFarlane and Image Comics presents...

APOCALYPSE WHEN

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Curse of the Spawn_13 Summary

Priest is subjected to extremely painful testing and sampling as the incestuous twins, Liz Ann and Kevin Bergregor, attempt to turn her into an experimental feral. When Priest escapes with their prized Heat-16 module, her former comrades/ferals are sent after her where they destroy the occupants of the nearby town of El Morte. Priest is again captured, this time by the guards of Erich Westerlin who recovers the Heat-16 module and forces her into a life as a Uranium-235 miner.

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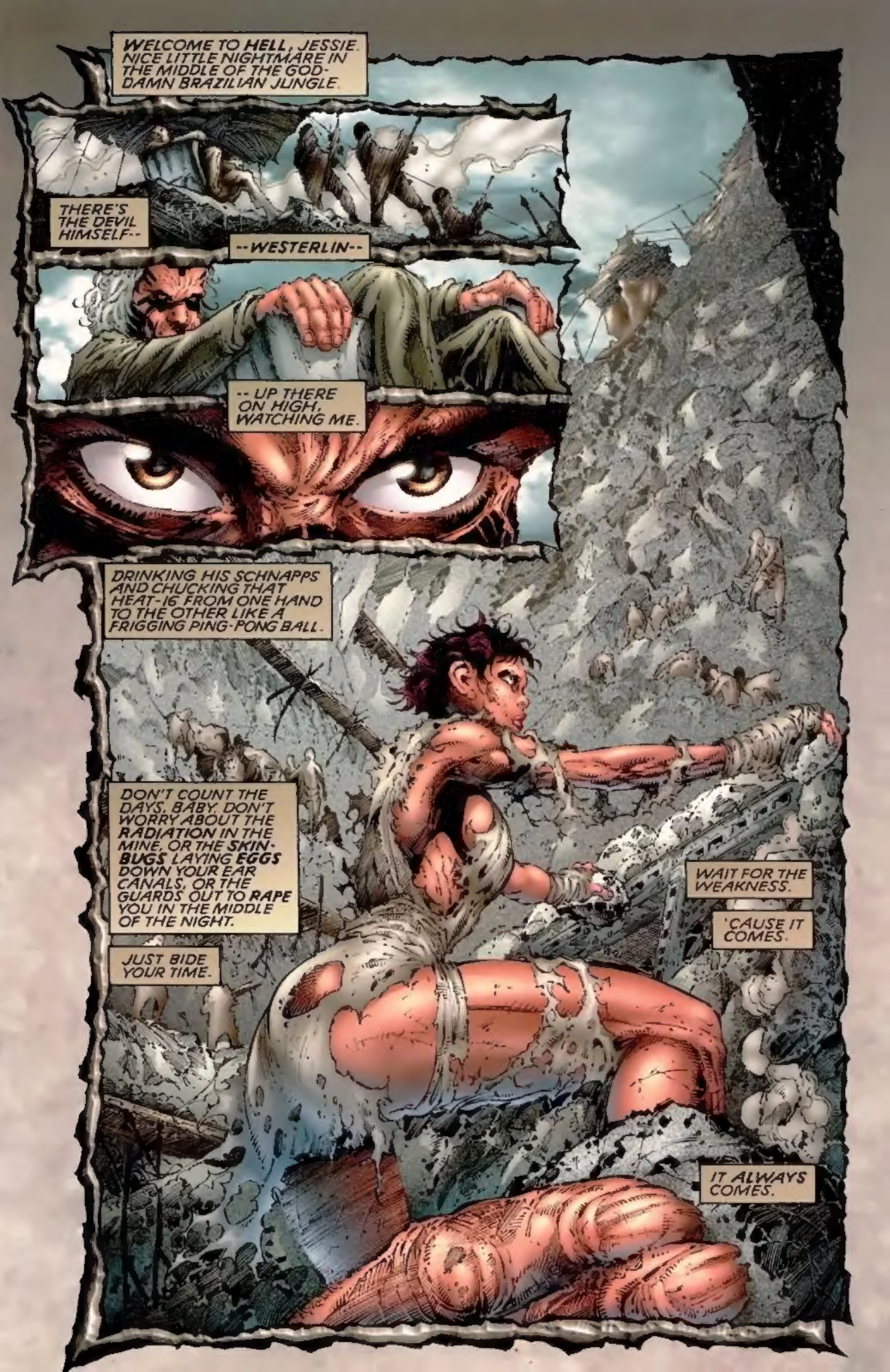
WELCOME TO HELL, JESSIE. NICE LITTLE NIGHTMARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GOD-DAMN BRAZILIAN JUNGLE.
THERE'S THE DEVIL HIMSELF--
--WESTERLIN--
-- UP THERE ON HIGH, WATCHING ME.
DRINKING HIS SCHNAPPS AND CHUCKING THAT HEAT-16 FROM ONE HAND TO THE OTHER LIKE A FRIGGING PING-PONG BALL.
DON'T COUNT THE DAYS, BABY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RADIATION IN THE MINE, OR THE SKIN-BUGS LAYING EGGS DOWN YOUR EAR CANALS, OR THE GUARDS OUT TO RAPE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
JUST BIDE YOUR TIME.
WAIT FOR THE WEAKNESS.
'CAUSE IT COMES.
IT ALWAYS COMES.

ANOTHER CONVEYOR RAIL'S BLOWN. DAMN MACHINE'S FIFTY YEARS OLD--WHAT DO THEY EXPECT?
NO. ARANXIA! ONLY PERSON WHO'S BEEN DECENT TO ME SINCE I GOT HERE. GET OUTTA THE WAY, DAMMIT! MOVE!
ARANXIA!
PRIEST SPRINTS DOWN THE MINE'S CRATER WALL FUELED BY ANGER. SHE KNOWS THE WORLD'S UNFAIR, BUT THIS TIME SHE INTENDS TO BEAT THE FATES.
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER.
PRIEST WHIRLS ON THE GUARDS AND BULLDOZES DOWN THE SIDE OF THE ORE PIT-- MACHETES THROUGH ANYONE WHO STANDS BETWEEN HER AND ARANXIA.
I'M COMING!
THOUGHT, I'M DEAD FOR SURE THIS TIME.
NO CHANCE.

UNDER HIS PARASOL, ERLICH WESTERLIN HAS ENJOYED PRIEST'S HEROIC DISPLAY. HAS SEEN HER ARMOR CRACK UNDER THE STRAIN OF WHIRLING ANGER.
METHINKS YOU CARE TOO MUCH.
KABOOM!
A WORSHIPPER OF THE WAURA WARRIORS... A GOD-HEAD IN HIS TINY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE... ERLICH WESTERLIN REVELS IN THE SCENT OF DEATH.
SON OF A BITCH. YOU JUST SAW YOUR LAST SUN-RISE.
NO!
THE LORD GIVETH-- THE LORD TAKETH AWAY. BRING THE WOMAN TO ME.

AN ANCIENT CONQUISTADOR STRONGHOLD REFURBISHED BY WESTERLIN. HE LIVES LIKE A KING IN EXILE. HAS EQUIPMENT SET UP TO REFINE THE U-235 HE MINES FROM THE PIT, AND A COMPUTER COMM-SYSTEM THAT LINKS HIM TO THE WORLD MARKET.
DOZENS OF COMPETING TERRORISTS ARE ALREADY PLACING BIDS ON THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL WESTERLIN PLANS TO DELIVER... THE BIDS EQUIVALENT TO MANY NATIONS' TREASURIES.
Oh MY YES, THERE YOU ARE. THE STRONG ONE, SO ADMIRABLE. I'D OFFER YOU WINE, PERHAPS FRUIT AND BREAD, SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE LICE-INFESTED GRUEL I FEED THE WORKERS, BUT YOU WOULD REFUSE, OR SPIT IT BACK IN MY FACE, WOULDN'T YOU?
SO STRONG. YES. SO MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE TO BREAK WHEN THE TIME COMES. IT'S NO FUN PUTTING YOUR FIST THROUGH PAPER. I'D RATHER TEAR DOWN A BRICK WALL, SUCH AS YOURSELF.
BUT FIRST, TELL ME THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NODULE I DREDGED OUT OF YOUR INTESTINES. IT'S A WEAPON OF SOME KIND, ISN'T IT? BIOLOGICAL? CHEMICAL?
GIVE IT BACK RIGHT NOW AND, YOU HAVE MY WORD, I'LL LET YOU LIVE.
HA HA-HA, IS THAT A FACT. YOU'LL LET ME LIVE.

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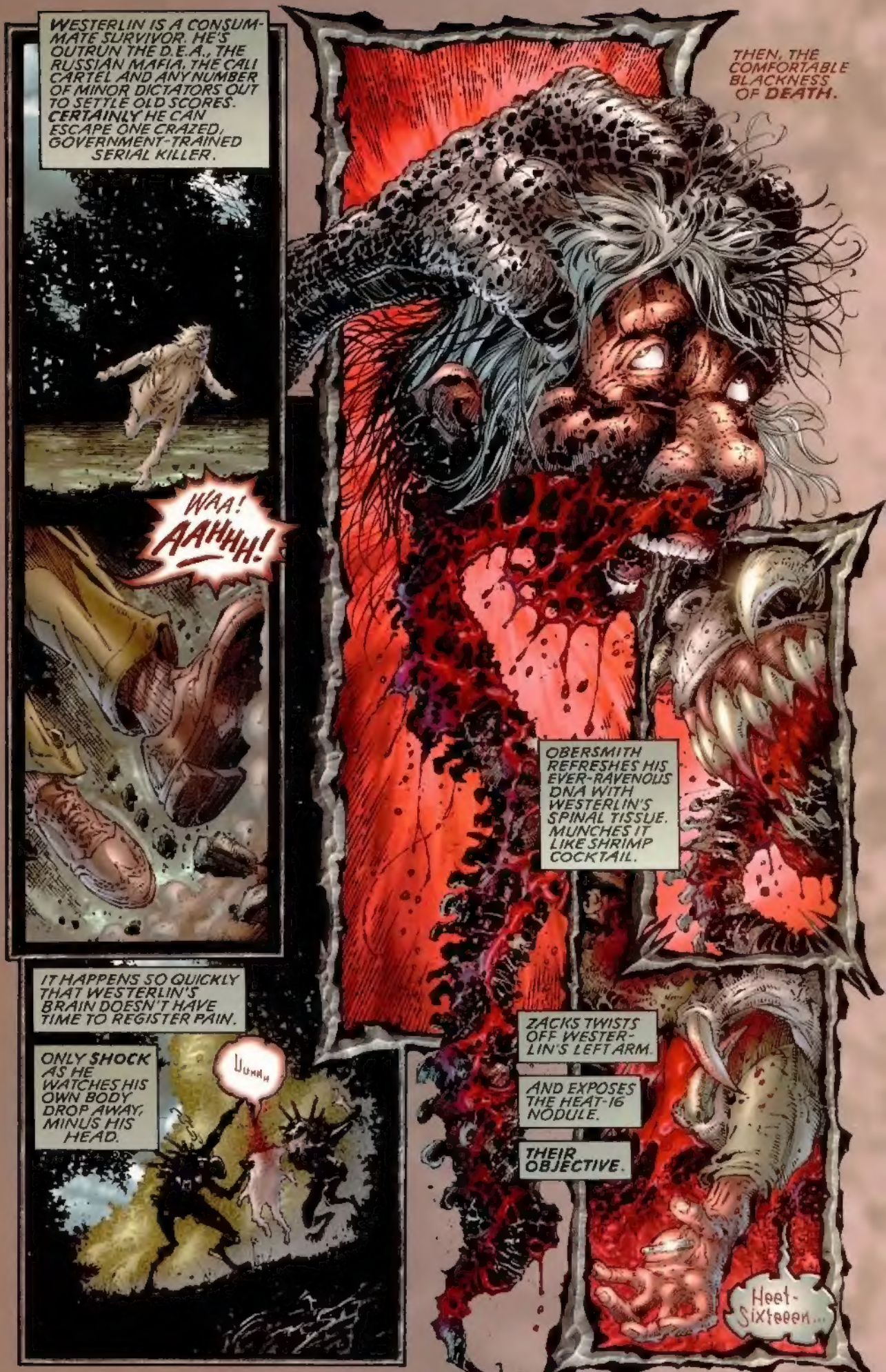
THE FERALS COME. OBERSMITH AND ZACKS. FORMER A-6 AGENTS NOW MUTATED INTO KILLING, EATING MACHINES.
Ah-YAA!
NAA!
THE PAIR, ARMORED WITH RAPID REGENERATIVE TISSUE, HAVE BUT ONE OBJECTIVE. THEY FOLLOW THE GENETIC SCENT OF ONE PERSON.
KRRUM!
Preeeesst!

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
A CHANCE TO RIP OUT A THROAT!
PUT A FEW CHOICE ROUNDS THROUGH A PISS-SOFTENED BRAIN, OR TWO!
MAYBE HAVE A DRINK. GET THIS PARTY STARTED.
WESTERLIN!
DON'T RUN, YOU DICKLESS BASTARD. THE PARTY'S JUST STARTING TO HEAT UP!


WESTERLIN IS A CONSUMMATE SURVIVOR. HE'S OUTRUN THE D.E.A., THE RUSSIAN MAFIA, THE CALI CARTEL AND ANY NUMBER OF MINOR DICTATORS OUT TO SETTLE OLD SCORES. CERTAINLY HE CAN ESCAPE ONE CRAZED, GOVERNMENT-TRAINED SERIAL KILLER.
WAA! AAHHH!
IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY THAT WESTERLIN'S BRAIN DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO REGISTER PAIN.
ONLY SHOCK AS HE WATCHES HIS OWN BODY DROP AWAY, MINUS HIS HEAD.
Uuhhh
THEN, THE COMFORTABLE BLACKNESS OF DEATH.
OBERSMITH REFRESHES HIS EVER-RAVENOUS DNA WITH WESTERLIN'S SPINAL TISSUE. MUNCHES IT LIKE SHRIMP COCKTAIL.
ZACKS TWISTS OFF WESTERLIN'S LEFT ARM.
AND EXPOSES THE HEAT-16 NODULE.
THEIR OBJECTIVE.
Heat-Sixteen...

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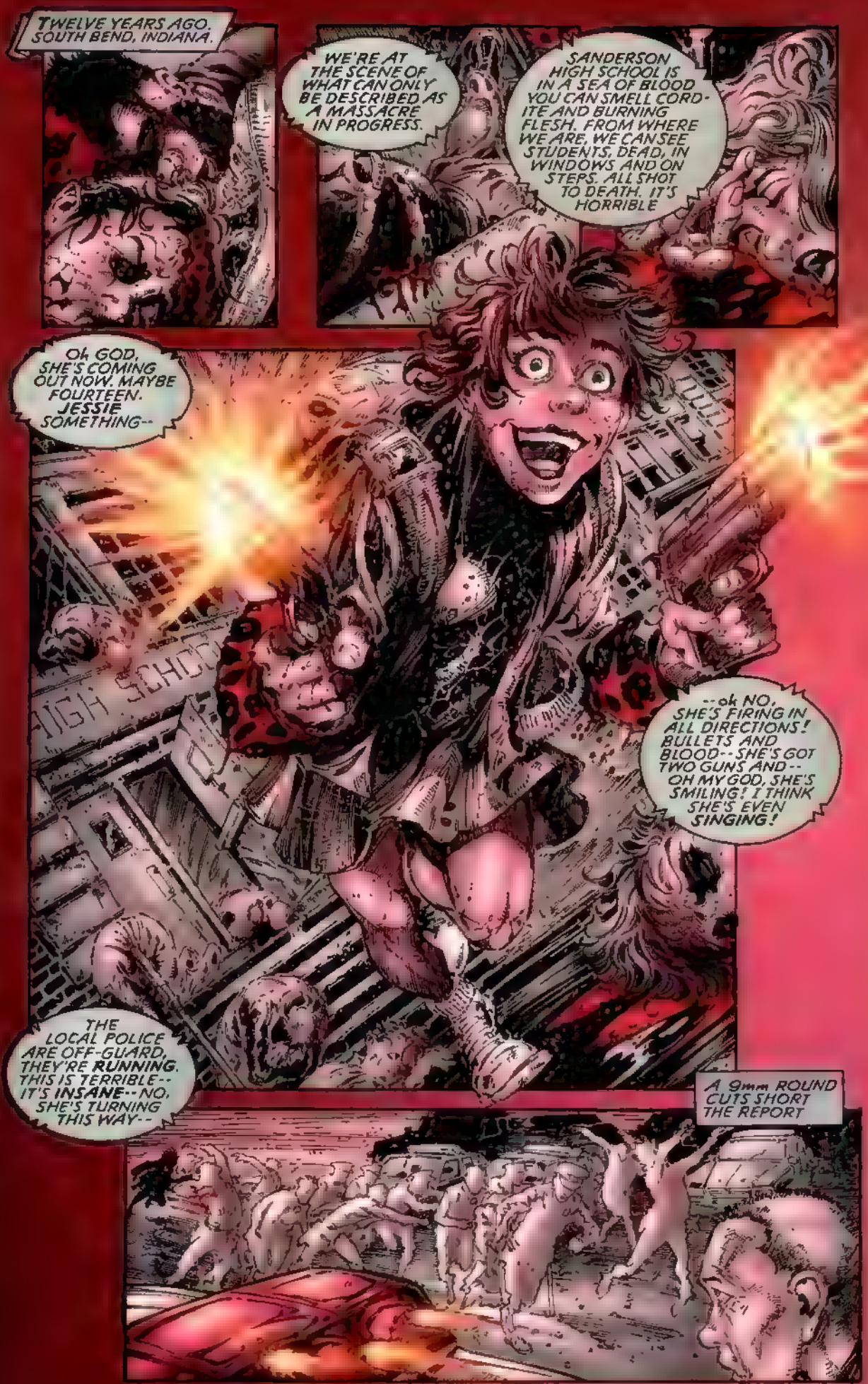
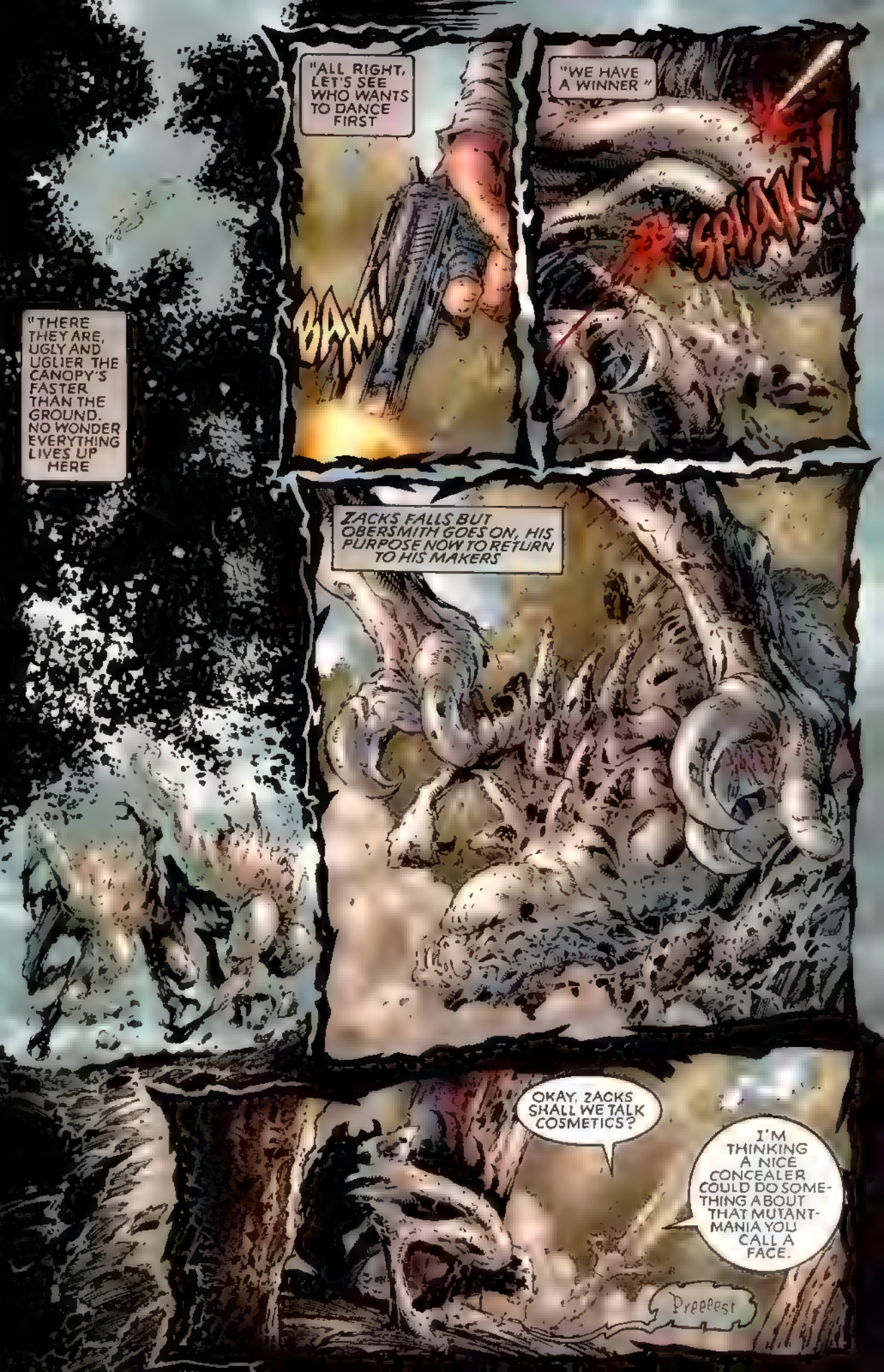
NOW FOR YOU, WESTERLIN. LEAVING A TRAIL LIKE A WOUNDED BUFFALO
WORTHLESS PUKE.
THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU WATCH ME JUMP ROPE A FEW TIMES WITH YOUR INTESTINES.
PRIEST FINDS WHAT'S LEFT OF WESTERLIN STREWN OVER A HALF ACRE OF RAIN FOREST. SHE SHIVERS. NOT OUT OF DISGUST, BUT FURY.
TO BE ROBBED OF HER REVENGE AFTER DAYS OF TORTURE IS WORSE THAN THE PAIN SHE'S ENDURED
ARNO AND BERGREGOR SENT THOSE CREATURES THEY MADE TO GET THE NODULE.
NOW THEY'LL BE GOING HOME TO MOMMY AND DADDY.
WELL, GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER.

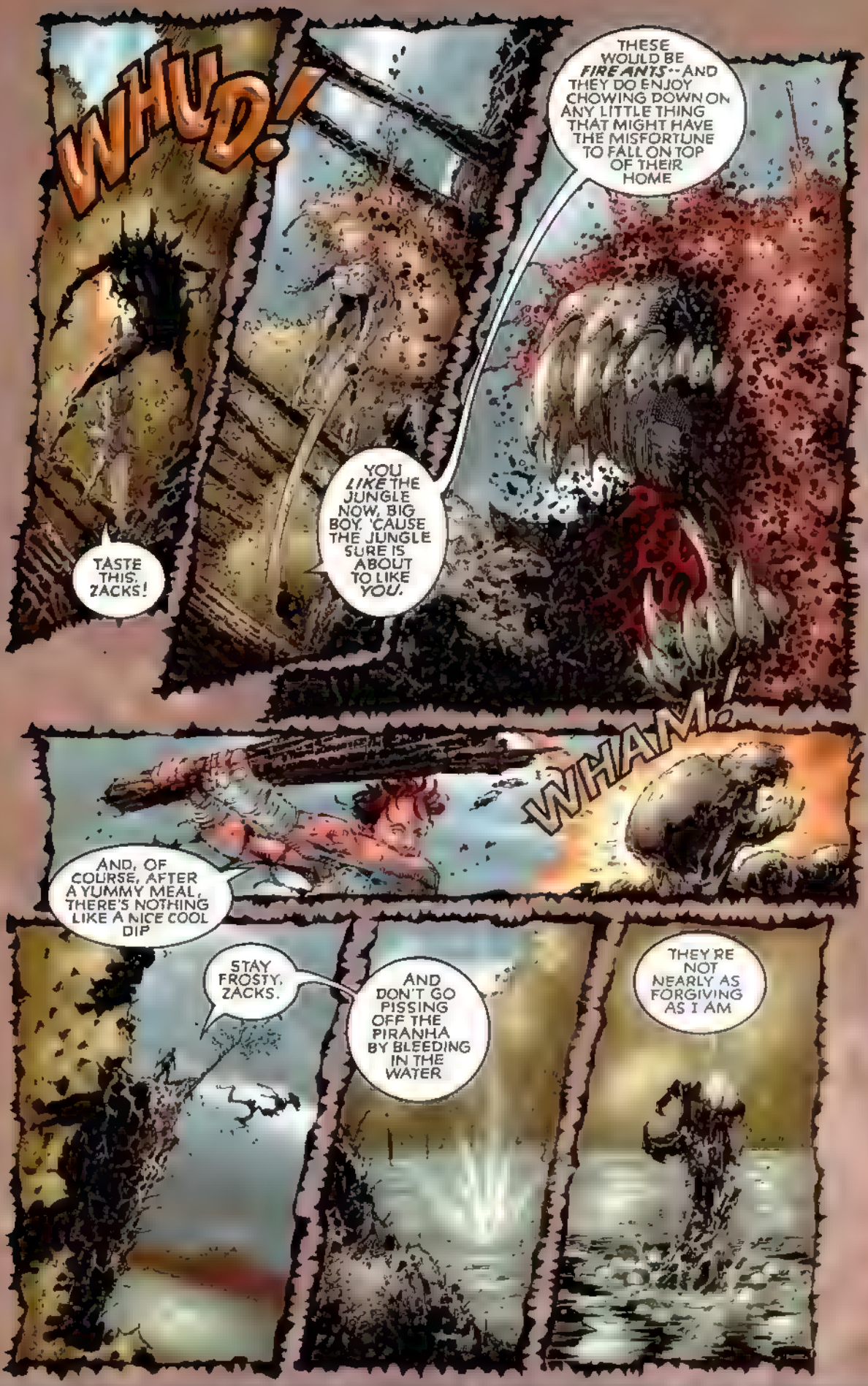

TWELVE YEARS AGO. SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.
WE'RE AT THE SCENE OF WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A MASSACRE IN PROGRESS.
SANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL IS IN A SEA OF BLOOD YOU CAN SMELL CORDITE AND BURNING FLESH. FROM WHERE WE ARE, WE CAN SEE STUDENTS, DEAD, IN WINDOWS AND ON STEPS. ALL SHOT TO DEATH. IT'S HORRIBLE
OH GOD. SHE'S COMING OUT NOW. MAYBE FOURTEEN. JESSIE SOMETHING--
--oh NO. SHE'S FIRING IN ALL DIRECTIONS! BULLETS AND BLOOD--SHE'S GOT TWO GUNS AND-- OH MY GOD, SHE'S SMILING! I THINK SHE'S EVEN SINGING!
THE LOCAL POLICE ARE OFF-GUARD, THEY'RE RUNNING. THIS IS TERRIBLE-- IT'S INSANE--NO, SHE'S TURNING THIS WAY--
A 9mm ROUND CUTS SHORT THE REPORT

"EXTRA CREDIT? BELL WORK?! HOMEWORK! HAHAHAHA!
"THE TEACHER SAYS TO ME, HE SAYS, 'WHAT DO YOU WANNA BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?'
BAM BAM BAM BAM
"AND I SAY, WELL, I'D LIKE TO BE THE TERMINATOR 'CAUSE HE KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S LITTLE PROBLEMS.
"SO MISTER POLINASKY SAYS, 'THAT'S NOT REAL LADYLIKE, JESSIE. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO BE A NURSE, OR A DENTAL HYGENIST.'
"AND I SAY, NO, SIR. I'M GOING ON A MISSION. I NEED TO TAKE OUT ALL THE ASS-HOLES IN THE WORLD BEFORE THEY WRECK THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY
"AND SUDDENLY I REALIZE WHAT A BIG JOB THAT IS. HUGE JOB. I'M THE CHINESE BUILDING THE RAILROAD. I'M RAMSES SAYING, HEY, YA KNOW, THIS WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE FOR A PYRAMID
"BUT, PEOPLE DON'T GET IT. THEY DON'T SEE THE PLAN. TOO SHORT-SIGHTED, TOO SELF-ABSORBED, BUT I SEE IT. I'M ON A MISSION.
"I'M ON A CRUSADE.
"ALL OR NOTHING, BABY
"ALL OR NOTHING!"

St. BART'S PRISON FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
I got a wiggle in my feet and it seems so incomplete ♪ I got a wiggle in my shoe and I don't know what to do ♪ I got a wiggle in my nose and I'm not sure where it goes ♪ I got a wiggle in my hair, and I hope that it stops there...
Oh, JESSIE, JESSIE··MY DEAR SWEET GIRL YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO THEY? THEY DON'T SEE THE MISSION YOU'RE ON.
THEY CAN'T APPRECIATE HOW YOU'VE TURNED DEEP INNER PAIN INTO A WARRIOR'S STRENGTH.
BUT I SEE IT, JESSIE. I KNOW FROM WHERE YOU SPEAK BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THERE TOO.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THAT, JESSIE? A PLACE TO SHARPEN THE BLADE OF YOUR SOUL... THEN USE IT TO DRAW RIGHTEOUS BLOOD. I CAN GIVE THAT TO YOU, JESSIE.
INTERESTED?
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A HOME, JESSIE. WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE... AND ARE NOW, AT THIS MOMENT, LEADING THE CRUSADE
TAKE ME HOME...


"THERE THEY ARE, UGLY AND UGLIER. THE CANOPY'S FASTER THAN THE GROUND. NO WONDER EVERYTHING LIVES UP HERE
"ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE WHO WANTS TO DANCE FIRST
BAM!
"WE HAVE A WINNER"
SPLAT!
ZACKS FALLS BUT OBERSMITH GOES ON, HIS PURPOSE NOW TO RETURN TO HIS MAKERS
OKAY, ZACKS SHALL WE TALK COSMETICS?
I'M THINKING A NICE CONCEALER COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MUTANT-MANIA YOU CALL A FACE.
Preeeest

SERIOUSLY. YOU CAN'T WANNA LIVE LIKE THIS, ZACKS. SO, HOW ABOUT I DOUBLE-TAP YOU *RIGHT* BETWEEN THE EYES AND WE CALL IT A DAY
Kill you-- bitch
You let us die
You let them do this to Me!
THUD
THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T TAKE THE RESPONSI-BILITY--
--BLAME IT ON SOME-BODY ELSE.
OH NO, IT'S NEVER YOUR OWN FAULT. *THAT* CAN'T BE IT. NO, *I* GOT YOU KILLED. *I* LET THEM DO THIS.
WHAT A WHINER.
NINE ROUNDS GO RIGHT WHERE IT COUNTS . AND THE SON OF A BITCH IS HEALING UP LIKE HE'S MADE OUT OF SILLY PUTTY
Everybody says you're a crazed banshee, a truly lethal bitch goddess
I always saw you as a tasty piece of ass
THIS IS NOT HOW I SAW MY DAY GOING.
Now I plan to find out Literally!


WHUD!
TASTE THIS, ZACKS!
YOU LIKE THE JUNGLE NOW, BIG BOY. 'CAUSE THE JUNGLE SURE IS ABOUT TO LIKE YOU.
THESE WOULD BE FIRE ANTS--AND THEY DO ENJOY CHOWING DOWN ON ANY LITTLE THING THAT MIGHT HAVE THE MISFORTUNE TO FALL ON TOP OF THEIR HOME
WHAM!
AND, OF COURSE, AFTER A YUMMY MEAL, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A NICE COOL DIP
STAY FROSTY, ZACKS.
AND DON'T GO PISSING OFF THE PIRANHA BY BLEEDING IN THE WATER
THEY'RE NOT NEARLY AS FORGIVING AS I AM

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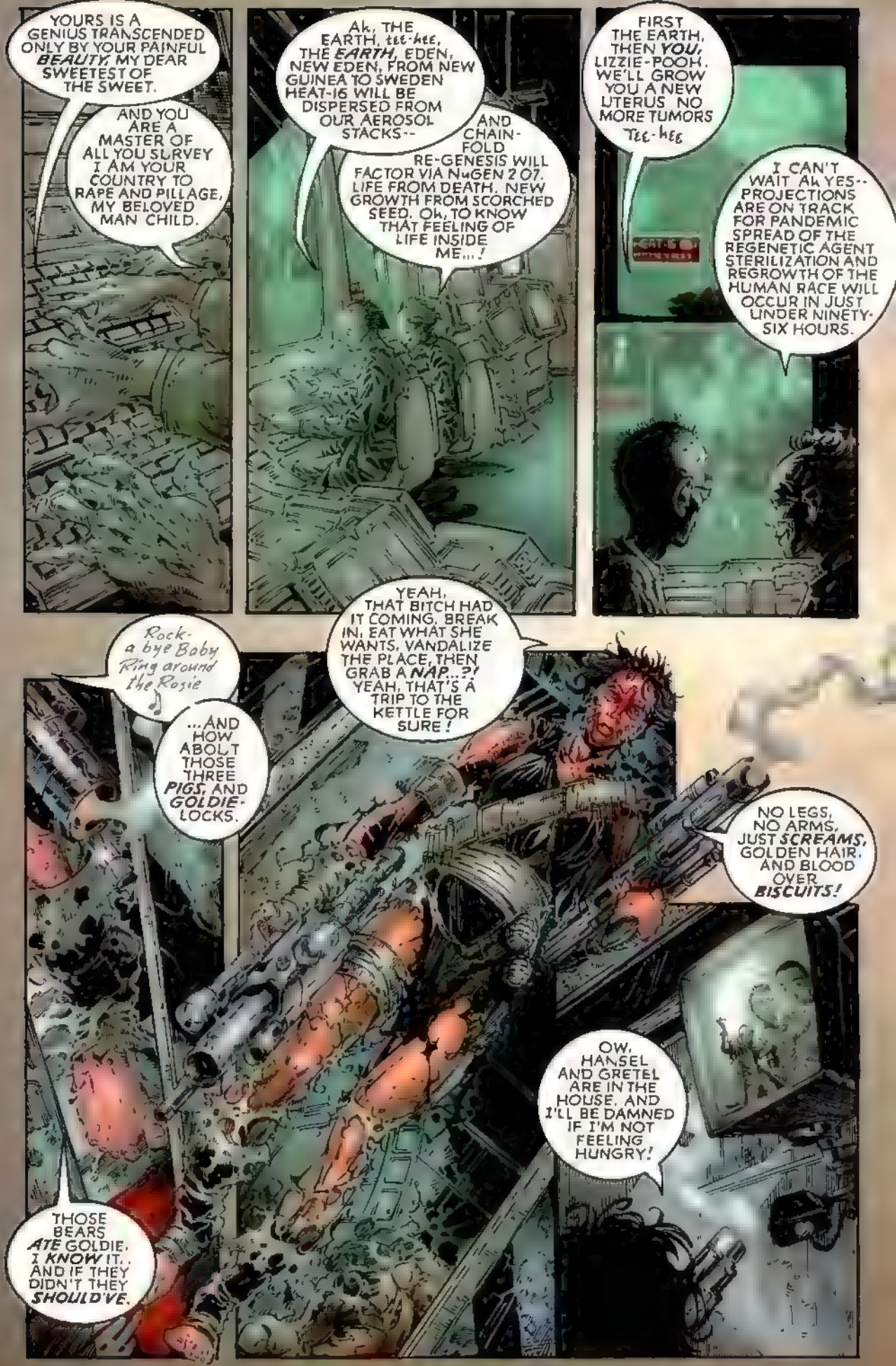
MORE JUNGLE PRIEST MOVES AS PART OF THIS LUSH ENVIRONMENT THE MORE EXHAUSTED, THE MORE DETERMINED... SWIFT, SILENT, UNSTOPPABLE.
SHE SENSES SOMEONE NOT A THREAT, BUT POWERFUL
YES, THE OLD ONES-- THE WAURA.
PRIEST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE WAURA WARRIORS' SOLEMN CHANT. BUT SHE SENSES THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HER. THAT SHE AND THE JUNGLE ARE ONE IN MANY WAYS.
THE WAURA NOW SEE PRIEST AS A DEMON WITCH-GODDESS OF THE FOREST. A DEITY TO BE RESPECTED AND FEARED
THEY PAINT HER FLESH TO MARK HER AS A BEING OF REVERENCE
JESSIE FEELS THIS IN THE DEEPEST PARTS OF HER SOUL. BUT THE WAURA HAVE AWAKENED SOME-BURIED STILL DEEPER -- ANIMAL INSTINCTS THAT IDENTIFY WOMAN AS THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES.
A WAR-CRY RISES FROM HER. A BANSHEE WAIL. A CRY FOR BLOOD THAT SETS FOREST BIRDS INTO PANICKED FLIGHT.
YES.. BLOOD. NOW-- FOR MEDLAB 005

MEDLAB 005.
Heeet-
Gixleeennn
MY CHILD, YOU'VE DONE US PROUD.
THAT'S A GOOD BOY, OBERSMITH. MOMMA LOVES HER BIG SWEET-UMS. NOW, YOU GO NAPPY-POO. YOU'VE HAD A VERY BUSY DAY.
Tee hee.
THE FERAL-VARIANTS WILL BE GOOD LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS IN THE NEW WORLD, WON'T THEY, BABY?
Oh, BUT YES, MY LOVE. CHARMING CUTIE-PIES WITH BRIGHT CRIMSON EYES. TEE-HEE
SHALL WE BEGIN RESEQUENCING THE PLANET, MON-SISTER-AMOUR?
Mmm... IN A BIT. RIGHT NOW I WANT A LITTLE SLAP-AND-TICKLE, BROTHER-LOVER. I'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL...

WASTE-DISPOSAL AREA A-19
A DEMON WITCH GODDESS RISES WITHOUT A SOUND
IN HER HEAD, SHE HUMS A LITTLE DITTY CALLED THE "HAPPY-HAPPY, JOY-JOY" SONG
HER FAVORITE LYRIC IS AN ASIDE BY THE SINGER: "I told you I'd shoot, but you didn't believe me."
BELIEVE ME, LITTLE MEN... SHOOTING WILL COME LATER. FOR NOW, COUNT YOURSELVES AMONG THE LUCKY.


YOURS IS A GENIUS TRANSCENDED ONLY BY YOUR PAINFUL BEAUTY, MY DEAR SWEETEST OF THE SWEET.
AND YOU ARE A MASTER OF ALL YOU SURVEY I AM YOUR COUNTRY TO RAPE AND PILLAGE, MY BELOVED MAN CHILD.
Ah, THE EARTH, tee-hee, THE EARTH, EDEN, NEW EDEN, FROM NEW GUINEA TO SWEDEN HEAT-16 WILL BE DISPERSED FROM OUR AEROSOL STACKS--
AND CHAIN-FOLD RE-GENESIS WILL FACTOR VIA NuGEN 2.07. LIFE FROM DEATH. NEW GROWTH FROM SCORCHED SEED. Oh, TO KNOW THAT FEELING OF LIFE INSIDE ME...!
FIRST THE EARTH, THEN YOU, LIZZIE-POOH. WE'LL GROW YOU A NEW UTERUS NO MORE TUMORS tee-hee
I CAN'T WAIT Ah, YES-- PROJECTIONS ARE ON TRACK FOR PANDEMIC SPREAD OF THE REGENETIC AGENT STERILIZATION AND REGROWTH OF THE HUMAN RACE WILL OCCUR IN JUST UNDER NINETY-SIX HOURS.
Rock-a bye Baby Ring around the Rosie
...AND HOW ABOUT THOSE THREE PIGS, AND GOLDIE-LOCKS.
YEAH, THAT BITCH HAD IT COMING. BREAK IN, EAT WHAT SHE WANTS, VANDALIZE THE PLACE, THEN GRAB A NAP...?! YEAH, THAT'S A TRIP TO THE KETTLE FOR SURE!
NO LEGS, NO ARMS, JUST SCREAMS, GOLDEN HAIR, AND BLOOD OVER BISCUITS!
OW, HANSEL AND GRETEL ARE IN THE HOUSE, AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M NOT FEELING HUNGRY!
THOSE BEARS ATE GOLDIE. I KNOW IT.. AND IF THEY DIDN'T THEY SHOULD'VE.

NINETY SECONDS TO LAUNCH, MY LOVE.
EIGHTY-FIVE SECONDS TO JOY, MY DARLING
KNOW SOMETHING? YOU TWO REALLY MAKE ME WANNA PUKE!
OUT TO GIVE THE WORLD A MAKE-OVER? LET'S START WITH YOU TWO, OKAY?
HOW'S ABOUT WE PLASTER YOUR FACES ALL OVER THAT FAR WALL?
BRRRR
Mmm... BURN, BABY... BURN! HAHAHAHAHA

A SMALL, PRIVATELY-OWNED ISLAND IN THE TURKS, WEST INDIES.
A SWIM SUIT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE, JASON. THE SNORKELING HERE IS SIMPLY TO DIE FOR
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS. DO YOU HAVE THE ITEM?
AS ASSIGNED HEAT-16. INTACT AND UNEMCUMBERED BY PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP.
AS ALWAYS, I AM IMPRESSED BEYOND WORDS.
WERE THERE ANY COMPLICATIONS?
NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
TAKE A FEW DAYS. THEN SEE ME. I HAVE AN OP YOU MAY ACTUALLY FIND TO BE A CHALLENGE.
MMM. THAT WOULD BE A WELCOME CHANGE.

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DISNEY WORLD -- THE FLYING TEACUPS.
NEXT TIME, JESSIE-- PICK SOMEPLACE LESS GUT-WRENCHING, OKAY?!
WEEEE!
FASTER! -- I WANNA SEE DADDY BLOW CHUNKS -- FASTER!
NEXT TIME, SWEETHEART-- HAHA-- I PROMISE.

BlahBlahBlah

BlahBlahBlah_61
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

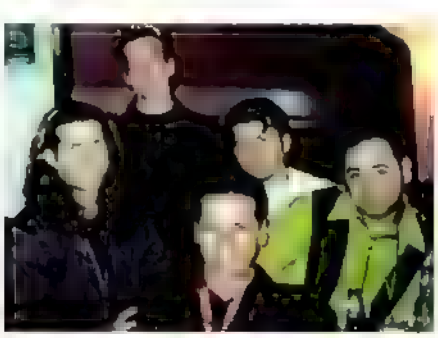
Ello Soundtrack news≥the Spawn CD was just certified PLATINUM in Canada and GOLD in the U.S. and New Zealand! On my trip throughout Europe last month, I picked up the CD in each country and it's interesting to see the same CD with different stickers on the front with the different language translations. The third and last variant cover has been approved by all! Expect to see a Santa Spawn cover on the soundtrack from Thanksgiving on. Now I am not going to pressure you into buying it.. but here are three reasons why you might want to pick it up. First, there will be only a small amount produced and then the film will be destroyed. Two, there will be a new song included on the CD that does not appear on the first two versions! Last, we are running a sweepstakes inside and the first prize is pretty cool. If you win, you'll receive a Sony DVD player, the Spawn animated series on DVD, a signed piece of movie memorabilia, and a signed movie poster! Approximate value for the grand prize package is $5,000.

I met with the movie distributors for the following countries: UK, France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux territories while in Europe and they all have cooked up some interesting plans. For example, in France they will have a city bus painted black with the Spawn logos on the side, rooming throughout the country side for three weeks and then into Paris for a further three weeks. Inside the bus will be exhibits on the comics, toys, CD, PlayStation game, etc.

While in London, I saw Spawn movie posters on every Underground station throughout the city. Two days after I left, Mark Dippe was in town for the UK premiere. Opening weekend we were number three there, with just under $2 million. The CD was 48 on the Top 100 CDs at the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Circus.

At the Virgin store on the Champs-Elysses in Paris, the soundtrack was also in the top 50. The Virgin store was running a promotion with our foreign publisher there, Semic France, in that if you purchased the soundtrack you'd receive one or two free back issues of Spawn. (Look for the photo in an upcoming blah.)

I attended the ECTS video game show in Olympia, England, a suburb of London. The Spawn video game for the PlayStation is coming along nicely and will hit the shelves here in America around the first week of December and will hit the shelves in Europe around March or April '98. Look for it in Japan by this Christmas as well. It features really cool, moody music and backgrounds that are truly beautiful. All of your favorite Spawn characters are there, plus a new one or two.



New Line has made it official: the Spawn movie video will be released to all video stores for December 23rd, just in time to celebrate the Christmas season. They will be releasing two versions of the video: one as seen on the theatrical screens, rated PG-13, and a Director's Cut that features added never before seen footage and warrants a "R" rating.

Lastly, the pictures. Top right.. If you see either of the vehicles on the road...run them off! The van has been on the road for six months or so now, hitting every major toy store, theater, record chains, etc. They show the movie trailer in the back of the van and hand out goodies to all nearby. The large truck hauls action figures here, there and everywhere, not to mention on hauling around junk for conventions, promotional events, etc.

The picture below the first, features the Official Spawn Zamboni! This Zamboni cuts the ice for the Detroit Whalers, in the OHL league. And as usual.., this momma's midnight black with killer chrome wheels.

Last photo, bottom left features, left to right: Brian McCaughey (writer for "axcess" mag), Richard Patrick of "Filter", unknown soldier, and Scott Kirkland and Ken Jordan of "the Crystal Method". Thanks for the great track on the soundtrack guys.

see you soon - fitzy t

Curse Words
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Curse Words

I just finished reading Curse of the Spawn #11 and I thought I could share some of my views on it and the whole series with you. Let's start with the art of Mr. Turner. He has one of the most detailed styles I've seen in years. I still wonder how this book comes out as regularly as it does. Kudos to Danny Miki and Todd Broeker as well. The writing, in turn, brings many thoughts to mind. The concept of the book is extraordinary; it adds a lot of depth to the world of Spawn while being independent of it. It's a good idea to do several mini-series so that each story is brought to a conclusion. On the downside the characterization is not all that it could be because you spend only 3 or 4 issues on the same characters. Moreover, Alan's writing is provocative at the least; it breaks new barriers and is the first comic I wouldn't let a 12 year-old kid read (especially issue 5 through 8). Being 19, I appreciate the strength and the hard core emotions Alan communicates through his writing.

That's all for the moment and I shall say that the low prices make it even more interesting to keep track of your evolution every month.

Marc-Andre Daigle Age 19
Trois-Rivieres-Ouest, Quebec

This comic book was never intended to be everybody's cup of tea even for those that are big Spawn fans. It was meant to give a bit of a different look into this world that Al Simmons has gotten into. And though I do agree with you that it can be somewhat frustrating not to have every character flushed out for those that already exist in the regular Spawn book, it actually gives me more room to expand on them. It causes a bit of a love/hate relationship.

I'll continue to hold the line on the pricing as long as possible. So far, that's been over five years. I usually find ways to do things the way I need to and not have to raise the book prices.

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

I am writing this letter to you after watching the story about you on the CNN television show "Impact." I found the interview in short, degrading to you and the success of your creation, Spawn. In my opinion the story was based on the violence in your comics and the money made by your comics, toys and television series on HBO. Only once did they mention the reason ninety percent of your fans read Spawn, the story. The story of Al Simmons and the reason he is what he is. I found that the story poked fun at your toys. When they mentioned the detail of your toys, they only mentioned the plastic. Not the finely detailed paint and molding that make your toys collectibles. When mentioning your comics they seemed to only pay attention to the blood and gore and not the story of the comics. They also spoke of your HBO cartoon as if it were directed to nine year olds. They never mentioned that it was a show for adults.

I also saw that they were making fun of you as a person. They showed a taped conversation of you at your office viewing the Sam and Twitch action figures and how you joked about giving the Sam Burke figure a super farting action. They portrayed this as a serious conversation, trying to make you look childish and immature. I will be fair, though. You were able to tell your side of all these things but not compared to the time they took to degrade your success. I would please like to hear your view on the story. You may decide to not print my letter if you want, but I would appreciate your response. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
L. Jay Cracraft

On some levels, I am childish and immature so when that came across on the CNN piece, it didn't really bother me. After being in the limelight for quite some time now, I've come to accept the fact that lots of journalists speak and provide information based on ignorance. Unfortunately, their job dictates that they have to get in and out of these story lines literally once a day so they are not provided with any sense of vested interest in giving the full picture. What usually happens is that the easy route becomes an obvious path. The reporters do an interview on a guy who makes a lot of money drawing blood and it's a fairly easy and catchy way of telling the news. Since they're in the business to entertain, that's what they do. I learned a long time ago to accept these limitations of their format.

Dear Curse Words

To start off with, I think that Curse of the Spawn is a great comic series that I look forward to reading every time a new one hits the stands. The storylines always hold my interest and the artwork from Image artists are so excellently detailed and colorful that no other competitor can come close to it. Keep it up.

I would like to take a moment to comment on issues 9-11. One aspect I like about these issues is that they focus on the character Angela. She is a character I would like to see more often. I enjoy reading material and seeing works of art carrying biblical themes or topics whether discussed academically or in fictional writing. I am pleased at the way Image artists and writers have presented their rendition of angels. Their portrayal runs in the opposite direction of how mainstream Christians view them. They are not the gentle, compassionate "winged celestial beings who play more of a concerned, guidance counselor role" in interacting with humanity. The Image angels are more or less non-emotional, battle driven out of the Book of Revelations type beings who wear garments typical of a warrior-like race. I appreciate the alternative view point.

Even though that Spawn and the other books are not meant to be read into deeply, the imagination poured into its writings and drawings are so good that it leaves the readers wondering. For instance, I have been trying to figure out the character, Deurges. Based on these three issues, I come to the conclusion he is Death in every meaning personified. In issue 9, he is present at the deaths of the individuals that make up Angela. Now whether he is present at the demise of all individuals or certain ones who have a major impact on future events, I am still speculating. It seems to be clear that the practitioners of the light fear and despise him. I also have the feeling that the followers of darkness feel the same way in which I will try to explain on how I base this feeling.

In issue 10, there was a brief encounter between Deurges and Cogliostro in which these remarks were said, "I am no longer a prisoner and you are no longer my jailer." If I read the context of their conversation correctly, this took place a very long time ago.

According to Spawn Bible Cogliostro is a Hell Spawn who began being an evil, vicious servant of Malebolgia which was a so a long time ago. Putting the two together, I have come to the conclusion that Deurges is in a category of his sliding neither with evil or good and is hated by all. How warm am I?

Oh, by the way thanks for leaving us readers suspended in the air as to the outcome of the Angela and Deurges storyline. Instead of continuing or wrapping up the story between these two prominent characters, issue 12 concentrates on Priest. Why I am disappointed is that I sometimes realize writers will forget their loose ends from previous stories. I hope it is not the case in this particular storyline. Am I right or wrong? Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

A devoted Image fan
Jeffrey Lozon
Indian River Michigan

I'm glad you enjoyed the story line with Angela. As I've stated many times, the purpose of this book is to showcase the characters within Spawn's world, some of whom are more prominent like Angela while others, like Priest, are trying to become more developed characters.

The funny thing about Angela is that she hasn't really appeared as much as people think she has. She started out in Spawn #9 and then had her own three issue miniseries a year later. She did not appear again until Spawn 62. Four times in five years is less than most people realize, I think. Her popularity is probably due to her rarity. Sometimes there is a tendency to overuse some of the characters because they are popular. In the old days, just because Dr. Doom or Magneto were popular characters, doesn't mean you brought them into their own books and made a series out of them. I'm inching Angela along in the old traditional way by only using her sparingly. I'm doing the same with a few of the other characters that are more popular but when I do bring them back their appearances will be infrequent instead of overusing them in the books every month.

Additionally, each story is not meant to completely tie up every outstanding detail of the story line. Sometimes things are better left open ended so they can be further developed later when we can give the characters more exposure.

Dear Curse Words

Although I've often been tempted to start buying Spawn comic books for quite some time, I hadn't done so until recently, because I felt that I would be so far behind in the story that I would simply not be able to understand it. A couple of weeks ago I finally took the plunge and I can't believe what I've been missing out on. I started buying issues of the regular Spawn series, but I quickly became aware of Curse of the Spawn and seeing that there aren't as many issues in this series yet, I decided to buy every issue of Curse of the Spawn which didn't set me back too far financially.

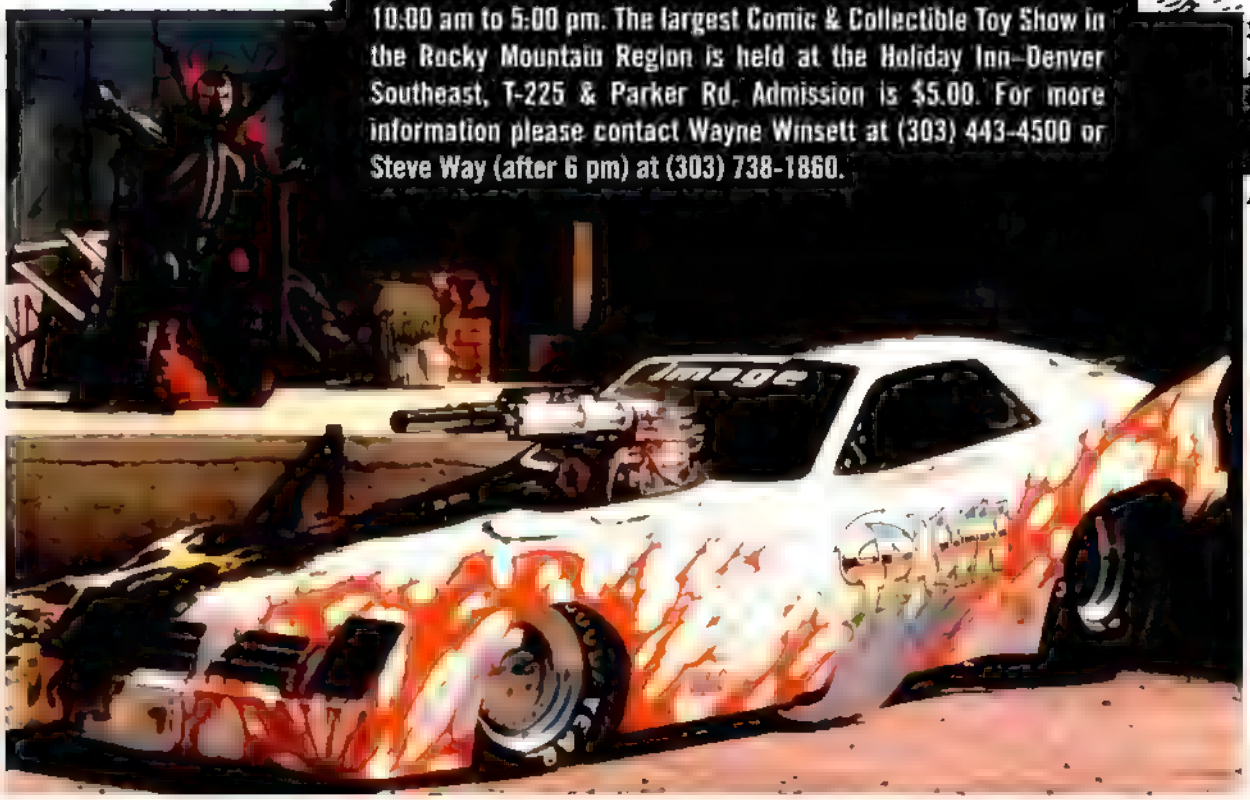
I got them all pretty quickly with one exception—Curse of the Spawn #6. I looked high and low for this comic, but was unable to locate it anywhere in Sydney where I live. Eventually, I asked various staff members at a few comic book stores why my search had been so fruitless and I was surprised to hear that everybody I asked said that due to a problem with Australian customs officials Curse of the Spawn #6 had never been released in Australia. I thought this explanation was more than a little crazy but I heard it so many times that it must be true. Hence, I would like to know if you are aware of this fact and may I also ask if there is any other way that you would recommend that I could get the book. Otherwise, congratulations on a great comic book which has really delivered despite having to live up the incredible standards set by the regular Spawn series.

Yours sincerely
Clint Marlborough
Cabarita, New South Wales, Australia

Since we ship around the world, each country has its own set of moral standards and laws as to what is and isn't appropriate for their country. We ran into that even with the movie. Each country gave the movie a different rating consistent with its own standards. Often these problems with customs are isolated events that crop up from time to time. They eventually work themselves out.

If you are looking to find back issues of Spawn without spending too much money, ask your comic shop retailer about the Spawn trade paperbacks. They are a collection of five issues and we now have five trade paperbacks printed. Therefore, you can pick up the Spawn back issues five at a time for about $9.95.

Al Simmons aka Spawn and the SpawnMobile will be appearing at the Denver Winter Comic Con '97 on Sunday December 7th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The largest Comic & Collectible Toy Show in the Rocky Mountain Region is held at the Holiday Inn–Denver Southeast, T-225 & Parker Rd. Admission is $5.00. For more information please contact Wayne Winsett at (303) 443-4500 or Steve Way (after 6 pm) at (303) 738-1860.



manga SPAWN

SERIES_9

from top:

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The Goddess

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Manga Cruise

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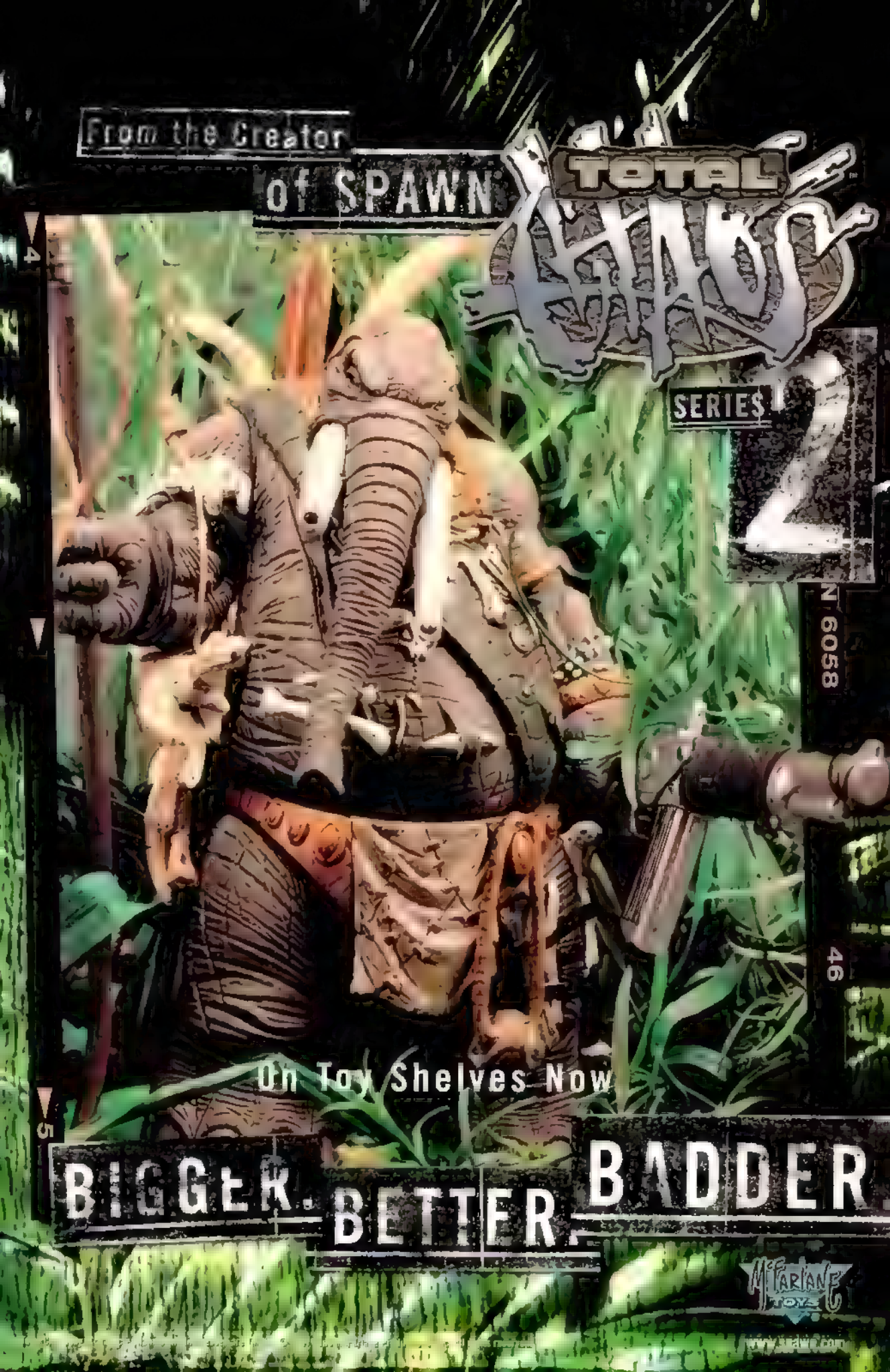
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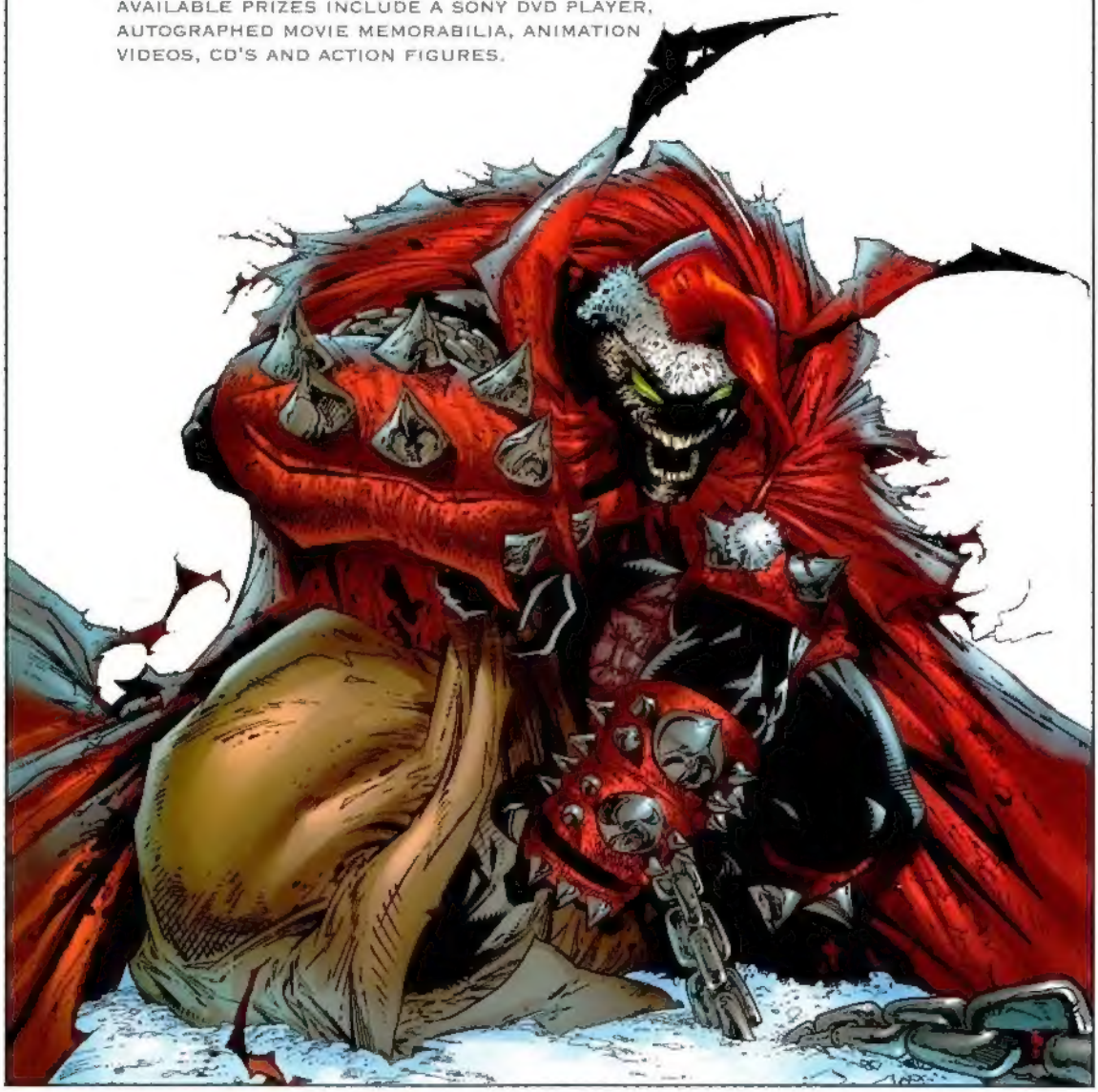

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